



Jim Casha <jim.casha@gmail.com>

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**Public comment - House Health Policy Committee - February 2nd, 'Groundhog Day', 2016**

1 message

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Jim Casha <jim.casha@gmail.com>  
To: Jim Casha <jim.casha@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 2, 2016 at 4:09 AM

House Health Policy Committee - February 2nd, 'Groundhog Day', 2016

SB 680 - Patient Programming Center Named for James K. Haveman

Public Comment - Jim Casha, 540-717-9240, jim.casha@gmail.com

I am opposed to SB 680 on the grounds that naming **any** Michigan mental health facility in honor of former Community Health and Mental Health Director James K. Haveman would be the equivalent of naming the Flint Water Treatment Plant in honor of former Flint Director of Public Works Howard Croft, whose incompetency and disregard for the health, safety and well-being of Michigan's Citizens led to the poisoning of and brain damage of 1000's of innocent Michigan children and adults.

James K. Haveman's involvement in the closing of Michigan's mental health facilities during the Engler 'Reign of Terror' and his complete and total disregard of Michigan's innocent children, brain damaged by Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (PAE), ignoring a report prepared by his department (MDCH) during the 'Snyder Reign' is nothing less than child abuse and neglect.

'Never Again'. Those were Governor's Snyder's orders to State public servants just yesterday.

The naming of the programming center at the Walter P. Reuther Psychiatric Hospital in Westland, MI, dishonors the Citizens of the State of Michigan, the countless 10,000's of it's mentally ill and mentally disabled citizens, many children, denied help by Haveman's actions and inactions, and is an insult to

his family ...and who didn't drink alcohol.

It is a further insult that this legislation would be sponsored by 'Senator' Pete MacGregor, who completely disregarded my pleas, asking for his help for foster children affected with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD). Instead of helping them, he closed down the facility (Maxey) that could be made to help them.

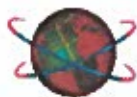
'Never again' will happen 'again' until this legislation stops rewarding and honoring those who do a disservice to Michigan's Citizens.

Anyone who votes favorably for this legislation ...will honor a child neglecter.

Pressing on, with unwavering faith,

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Jim Casha



The Schizophrenia Homepage  
www.schizophrenia.com

## Statewide Citizen Groups Invite Governor Engler to Southfield to Discuss Psychiatric Hospital Closings

SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Feb. 7 -- In reaction to Governor Engler's announcement yesterday that he planned to close State psychiatric hospital programs in Detroit, Kalamazoo and Pontiac, three mental health advocacy organizations expressed shock at the plan and have asked the Governor to meet with them at the Mental Health Building in Southfield.

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill/Michigan, the Mental Health Association in Michigan, and the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders released the following statement today, Friday, February 7, 1997: "Yesterday's announcement that Governor Engler plans to close Detroit Psychiatric Institute, Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac and the children's program at Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital came as a shock to us because neither citizen groups nor professional associations were informed of these decisions or invited to comment on them."

Ray Gauthier, President of the Alliance for the Mentally ill, said: "The Governor and his Community Health Director Jim Haveman constantly talk about 'community and citizen involvement.' There was no involvement here." The statement continued: "The Governor's argument for previous hospital closings, Lafayette Clinic in 1992 for example, was that the private sector and community mental health boards are available as equivalent replacement service providers. "This argument was questioned then and continues to be the subject of enormous debate. Nonetheless, Michigan's community mental health system is overburdened and underfunded, facts that seem indisputable. If his plan envisions transferring patients to other hospitals only, will such transfers far from home eliminate family involvement in the patient's treatment, the cornerstone to modern-day psychiatric

Samuel L. Davis, Executive Director of the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, said: "The State's argument that there is a declining census at its children's hospitals is a deliberate attempt to misrepresent the true situation. The mental health system refuses to hospitalize children who desperately need in-patient care simply to save money. They close the door and then say, 'look, nobody's inside, let's close the place.'" The statement continued: "We are inviting Governor Engler to meet with our three groups in an attempt to understand his reasoning and to provide him with information that he may not possess.

We hope that Mr. Haveman will participate as well because we know the Governor relies on him. We would like to discuss the following questions: 1). Does the Administration believe that the community mental health system has the resources needed to provide alternative care for the residents of the

will increase mental health resources in Michigan and in the metropolitan Detroit area? and 3). Is the "declining census," cited as the rationale for the hospital closings, real or a self-fulfilling strategy?

There are hundreds of thousands of Michigan citizens personally affected by serious mental illness in Michigan. Governor Engler is their Governor, too. On their behalf, we look forward to a thoughtful dialogue with the Governor on this matter." Tom Sovine, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in Michigan, said: "We are inviting the Governor to meet with us at the Mental Health

Building in Southfield at his earliest convenience. The Mental Health Building houses a number of citizen and professional groups devoted to the well-being of persons with mental illness. We feel it is an appropriate setting for a meeting of this importance." The text of a letter from Gauthier, Davis and Sovine to Governor Engler follows:

"We are deeply concerned about the plan announced yesterday to close the Detroit Psychiatric Institute, Clinton Valley Center in Pontiac and the children's in-patient unit at Kalamazoo Regional Psychiatric Hospital. "As you know, our three statewide organizations represent the hopes and desires of thousands of Michigan residents devoted to the needs of those suffering from mental illness, both children and adults.

On their behalf, we would very much appreciate an opportunity to speak with you about this new plan of hospital closings. It is our desire to have a frank discussion that addresses the following questions: "1. Is it the Administration's belief that the community mental health system has sufficient resources to provide alternative services for those who will be affected by the closings? "2. Are there private sector plans, of which we are unaware, that will add needed mental health services either in western Michigan or in the greater Detroit area? and "3. Is the argument that these hospitals are experiencing a decline in census a valid argument? "We know that you rely on the judgment of Department of Community Health Director Jim Haveman on these matters and would welcome his participation in our discussion. We invite the two of you to meet with us at your earliest convenience at the Mental Health Building in Southfield. The Mental Health Building houses citizen and professional organizations devoted to the best interests of persons with mental illness and is an appropriate setting for a meeting of this importance."

SOURCE Michigan Association for Children With Emotional Disorders -0- 02/07/97 /CONTACT: Ray Gauthier, President of Alliance for the Mentally Ill, 810-989-6476; Samuel L. Davis, Executive Director for Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, 810-552-0044; or Tom M. Sovine, Executive Director, Mental Health Association in Michigan, 810-557-6777/

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